



MINUTES OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GOVERNING COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 7:30 A.M. at Grace UMC Fellowship Hall

Attendance: April Shaffer, Mick Machen, Nick Black, Judy Macek, Geno Sharp, Pastor Jason Fry, Sonya Durrwachter, Robin Orchard, Nick Cecava, Chad Burkhart, Carolyn Scheible.

Absent: Kelly Whatley, Dennis DeReese

Guests present: Jim Dunmyer (staff) and Pastor Rebekah Rochte (staff)

AGENDA ITEM 1:

On Saturday, August 11, 2018 the Grace UMC Governing Council met at 7:30 a.m. at the Calallen Apartments at 14838 Northwest Blvd. Pastor Jason read scripture from Joshua Chapter 6 and had prayer. Those present prayer-walked the apartment complex and then returned to the church Fellowship Hall for Governing Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2:

The minutes of the May 21, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.

AGENDA ITEM 3:

Update on prayer ministry development: Pastor Jason is still working on developing a Prayer Ministry Team. He then introduced the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative about to begin. Prayer ministry development will continue in the fall.

AGENDA ITEM 4:

Review results of Grace UMC Congregational Survey: Pastor Rebekah gave a PowerPoint presentation where our congregation is now and will be heading in the future. There was a group discussion on the results. Nick Cecava thanked Pastor Rebekah for putting the survey together and all those who participated in the survey. Pastor Rebekah will write a summary report for the newsletter and will make a brief presentation in both the 8:50 and 11:15 worship services on August 26th.

AGENDA ITEM 5:

Update on Discipleship Pathway: Pastor Rebekah stated that the Discipleship team put

together a pathway over the course of a year in the form of four modules, including a four-week 101 option, home group option, Methodist 101 class and missional opportunity class. Each will be offered at least once a year. A launch event will be the last Sunday of August in Sunday School classes to invite people to participate.

AGENDA ITEM 6:

Consent Agenda Items:

- a. Budget report: Jason reviewed the Budget Report. Giving is down overall year-to-date in 2018 compared to this point in 2017. But it was pointed out that 2017 giving was uncharacteristically high compared to previous years. This year is more normal. Expenses are somewhat higher than giving to date, but July was better than June. Pastor Jason and the staff will keep a close eye on cash flow and expenses.
- b. Trustee/Building /Property reports: Chad Burkhart gave an update on the church properties. AC coils will be replaced within 10 days. The AC unit is in good shape. Both Chad Burkhart and Jim Dunmyer gave the Council feedback regarding the parsonage. A new roof will be put on by August 20, 2018, with no cost to the church – as it will be covered by insurance and ProStar Builders, who uphold the lifetime guarantee of the roof. It will be a metal shingled roof. Then Chad and Jim both spoke to the major repair issues needing to be addressed at the parsonage. There was much discussion about what course of action should be taken, and then Carolyn Scheible moved that the Governing Council form a task force to consist of Chad Burkhart, Robin Orchard, and Nick Black to assess the parsonage issues and explore future options and report back to the Council with a possible recommendation at our next meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next church workday will be Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 8 am to 12pm.

- c. Update on Development of Grace UMC Personnel Policies: Pastor Jason reported that the revision of the Employee Handbook was still in process. He is meeting soon with an attorney who specializes in labor law who is consulting with us pro bono. He expects to have a draft to consider at the October meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7:

Goals:

- a. Review 2018 Goals: Pastor Rebekah will prepare report for the October meeting.
- b. Discuss preliminary 2019 Goals: Governing Council will meet in September to complete the pastoral evaluation to submit to the Conference and discuss evaluation of congregational goals at October meeting. District Conference will be held at Grace UMC on November 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Date for Election of Charge Conference to be announced.

- c. Carolyn Scheible stated it was important that we be intentional about the evaluation of our ministries to celebrate and to share opportunities for excellence.

AGENDA ITEM 8:

Executive Session: Staff Update

AGENDA ITEM 9:

Other Business:

- a. Update on accounting process and future financial audit: Pastor Jason gave an update on our accounting process. He met with a team consisting of Judy Clifford and Gale Bridgeman (who are both accountants) along with Cathy Chaloupka (staff Financial Secretary) to discuss Grace UMC's accounting process and development of a plan to streamline our system to provide more clarity in reporting and ease of operation. There are plans to implement the changes in January 2019. Further, there is a meeting set with a possible person to do a professional audit/review of Grace UMC's finances on August 27. This team will meet with her along with the Finance group of the Governing Council (Mick Machen, Judy Macek, and Nick Black).
- b. Mission field opportunity: Pastor Rebekah and the Discipleship Team looked at ideas for ministering to residents at Calallen Apartments, including a welcome to the community event serving snow cones to children. This opportunity will occur sometime in early fall.

On Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Grace will have one service in a tent outside along with a meal packing event associated with the organization Rise Against Hunger. Fifty volunteers can package 10,000 meals in 2 hours to be shipped across the world. (This an opportunity for us to worship with our hands and hearts). Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, Coastal Bend District Superintendent will preach that day.

- c. Update on Rio Texas Annual Conference: Nick Cecava and Carolyn Scheible were delegates. Carolyn discussed the book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations and the possibility of us doing church-wide study. It will likely be during Lent in 2019. She and Nick also discussed how proud they were of Pastor Rebekah and her ordination and what a blessing she is to all of us.
- d. Update on other ministries: Pastor Rebekah gave an update on the Teen Pregnancy Day Care. It is still on hold with the State and will officially open after Labor Day.
- e. Governing Council Dates for remainder of 2018:
 - Tuesday, September 18th – 6:00 pm: Executive Session for Pastoral Evaluation.
 - Saturday, October 20th – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the church
 - December meeting (Date and time TBD) to elect new members

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:03am